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John J. Kelly, Jr.

Examiner : Ryan M. Flandro
Art Unit : 3679
Docket No.: 52433/682

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : M. SUGIMOTO et al.
Serial No. : 10/070,353
Filed : February 25, 2002
For : CONNECTED STRUCTURAL BODY

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

SIR:

Kindly amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

In The Claims

Cancel claims 1-3, 5 and 9-13.

Add the following new claims 14-18.

--14. (New) A joining structure that is reinforced by welding a columnar structural member to a base plate or a coupling flange via reinforcing ribs, characterized in that: said reinforcing ribs are tabular members gradually bent into a shape of U or V along the surface of said columnar structural member; and said gradually bent portions having the shape of U or V protrude

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